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Canberrans younger than rest of the nation

Canberrans were younger than Australians as a whole, with a median age of 34 years (36 nationally) at June 2003, according to figures issued today by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

This latest edition of **ACT in Focus 2004** provides a detailed statistical review of important and interesting aspects of life in the ACT. Other highlights include:

- The January 2003 bushfires burnt 70% (165,000 hectares) of the ACT land area.
- There was 569 mm of rain recorded in the ACT in 2003, an increase of 64 mm from 2002, but below the long-term average of 625 mm.
- Despite an increase in population, Canberrans used 377 megalitres (ML) less water in 2002–03 (65,567 ML) than 2001–02.
- There was a total of 14,630 child care service places in the ACT as at April 2004, with 43% being school age care (6,246 places).
- The sexually transmitted disease, Chlamydia, was the most reported communicable disease in the ACT in 2003, with 28% of all reported communicable disease notifications (522 notifications).
- The highest proportion of people using the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program in 2002–03 were aged between 20 and 24 years (300 people).
- Eighty percent of ACT businesses used the Internet in 2002–03, compared with 71% nationally.
- Overnight domestic visitors to the ACT were more likely to come to visit friends and relatives (41% of visitors) than for holiday or leisure (28%) in 2003.
- The majority (95%) of Canberrans aged 18 years and over reported that they had attended at least one cultural venue or event during 2002.
- In 2001, the ACT had the lowest rate of homelessness of all states and territories at 39.6 per 10,000 of the population.
- During 2002, there were 4,112 births and 1,373 deaths registered in the ACT.
- There were 25 adoptions in the ACT during 2002–03.

Further information is in **ACT in Focus 2004** (cat. no. 1307.8). It includes information on the environment, government, economy, people, education, labour market, business, housing, tourism, the Australian Capital Region and more.

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